

selecting a server to process the request based on a load of the server and based on whether the server can satisfy the request for data, said server connected to one or more heterogeneous datastores.

7. (Amended) An apparatus for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources, comprising:

a computer system having one or more heterogeneous data sources; and
one or more computer programs, performed by the computer system, for receiving a request for data at a federated data source and selecting a server to process the request based on a load of the server and based on whether the server can satisfy the request for data, said server connected to one or more heterogeneous datastores.

13. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer system and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer system to perform method steps for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources within a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for data at a federated data source; and
selecting a server to process the request based on a load of the server and based on whether the server can satisfy the request for data, said server connected to one or more heterogeneous datastores.